

Hyde United versus Wycombe Wanderers



Saturday 11th March 1989



F A Trophy Quarter Final

TROPHY HYDING



Royals are plundered on plastic

Clements blasts ref

A HOTLY disputed penalty set up Hyde United for a remarkable second-half recovery that denied Windsor what should have been the easiest of passages into the FA Trophy quarter-finals, writes David Goodman.

The Royals' set-piece mastery appeared to have sewn the game up by the half-time interval — centre-backs Mark Woods and Michael Barnes making the most of 'keeper Gary Walker's aerial frailties to send their side into a convincing 2-0 lead.

But it all blew up in their faces after 49 minutes, when Hyde were awarded that penalty when Walter Nisbett went down under an innocuous looking tackle by Barnes.

Skipper Terry Megram's confident spot-kick conversion finally shook off the last of the visitors' first-half lethargy and Windsor suddenly had a game on their hands.

Now more confident that they too were able to overcome the obstacle of the heavy Stag Meadow pitch, Hyde began to take control and were rewarded with the equaliser just six minutes later.

But that too was not totally uncontroversial, Windsor's Woods claiming that he had been pushed as Joe Connor wrestled the ball from him on the edge of the area before striding on to slot past the advancing Kevin Mitchell.

But Woods' complaints earned nothing more than a caution.

The booking affected him badly, and what was previously the most watertight thing on show — Windsor's defence — looked decidedly leaky.

The biggest hole that needed plugging was that which was left by Devon Petty. The regular full-back had been moved into the midfield to add a little more steel — which he did admirably. Unfortunately, his deputy, Steve Norman, found the going particularly tough against the speedy Connor.

But the closest Connor came to making it pay was when Woods failed to control the winger's 62nd-minute near post cross, leaving Nisbett to rattle the upright.

It was all so disappointing for the home side after they had battled so bravely in the first half, but in the end they had only themselves to blame.

WINDSOR...2 HYDE...2

The Royals made nearly all of the running once Kevin Mitchell had pulled off a splendid diving save to deny Mike Lutkevitch in the 15th minute, but it still took a goalline clearance from Stuart Mitchell to maintain the equilibrium before Woods shot them in front.

It was Barnes whose jump put 'keeper Walker under pressure from Ian Richards' 27th-minute corner, and Woods the first to react after Walker had only managed to palm the ball down inside the six yard box.

It was another Richards set-piece that set up the second, with Barnes beating the 'keeper to the midfielder's delightful chip and powering his header home from close range.

However, Windsor should have put the result beyond any doubt when Byron Walton forced his way into the Hyde area in the opening minute of the second period.

Left with only the 'keeper to beat, the stocky forward shot too close to Walker, who managed to get a foot to the ball and divert it over the bar.

But less at fault was Windsor midfielder Robin Gosnell when he was denied a last minute winner with the most timely of goalline clearances.

Windsor: K. Mitchell, S. Mitchell, Norman, Richards, Barnes, Woods, Gosnell, Petty, Walton, Dodds, Franks. Subs: Regis (for Dodds 55mins), Tough (not used). Hyde: Walker, Jackson, Moran, Megram, Hicks, Nisbett, Edwards, Rudge, Lutkevitch, Harris, Connor. Subs: Bishop (not used), Hooton (not used). Man of the match: Petty.

Attendance: 757.

AFTER being equalled at their own game at a muddy Stag Meadow on Saturday, Windsor were unable to beat Hyde United at theirs as John Clements' fears about playing on a "plastic pitch" were realised in Monday night's third round replay.

The Windsor manager had tried to get the game put back to allow more time for his Royals to acquaint themselves with the artificial surface, but his efforts were to no avail and Windsor were left with a convincing defeat as

United finished the job that they had started with Saturday's second-half revival.

"Obviously they were more used to it than us," said Clements.

"The surface certainly didn't suit a few of our players, but we should not have had to come here in the first place," he added, with unhappy memories of the controversial penalty that sparked Hyde's revival in their first encounter.

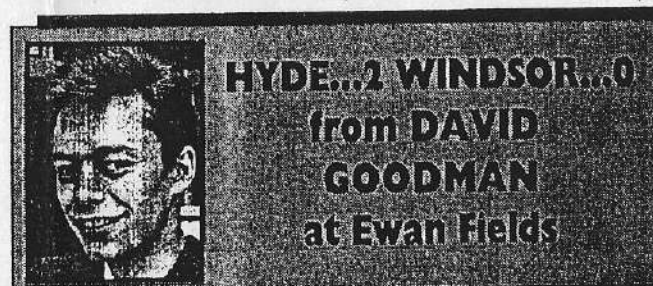
And referee M.J. Brandwood certainly did nothing to endear himself to the visiting fans in the replay, turning in another poor performance, including the second disputed penalty of the tie.

Frustrated

In fairness to the home side, that did not come until they had already taken the lead. And although Windsor were perpetually frustrated by the referee's glaring inconsistency, they would be unable to deny that Hyde were by far the better side on the night.

Windsor made one change from Saturday, with Devon Petty reverting to his more familiar left-back position after the roasting Steve Norman received at the hands of Hyde's Joe Connor.

As a result, the terrier-like Byron Walton dropped into midfield with Dave Regis coming in to partner Rowan Dodds up front.



HYDE...2 WINDSOR...0
from DAVID
GOODMAN
at Ewan Fields

"We should not have had to come here in the first place"

JOHN CLEMENTS

Hyde: Walker, Jackson, Moran, Megram, Hicks, Nisbett, Edwards, Rudge, Lutkevitch, Harris, Connor. Subs: Bishop (not used), Hooton (for Lutkevitch 70mins). Windsor: K. Mitchell, S. Mitchell, Petty, Richards, Barnes, Woods, Gosnell, Regis, Walton, Dodds, Franks. Subs: Tough (for Barnes 85mins), Muir (for Franks 88mins). Man of the match: Simon Rudge (Hyde). Attendance: 1,074.



Manager John Clements blasted referee M.J. Brandwood as Windsor were left counting the cost of this week's FA Trophy exit, writes David Goodman.

Clements felt that the Royals should have won their third round tie with Hyde United at the first and was seething at the penalty that helped Saturday's visitors force Monday's replay.

"The referee had two bad games and made three crucial errors," fumed the Windsor boss. "The penalty in the first game turned the tie in

Hyde's favour and the one in the second game killed off our hopes of an equaliser.

"I feel very bitter about those decisions, especially after we had worked so hard to reach this stage of the competition.

"The players gave it their best shot, but there's nothing you can do when two dubious penalty decisions go against you."

And defeat in Monday night's replay will prove much more costly than the hotel accommodation, travelling expenses and 18 pairs of boots needed to play on United's synthetic pitch. It also robs the Royals of a money spinning quarter-final at home to local rivals Wycombe Wanderers.

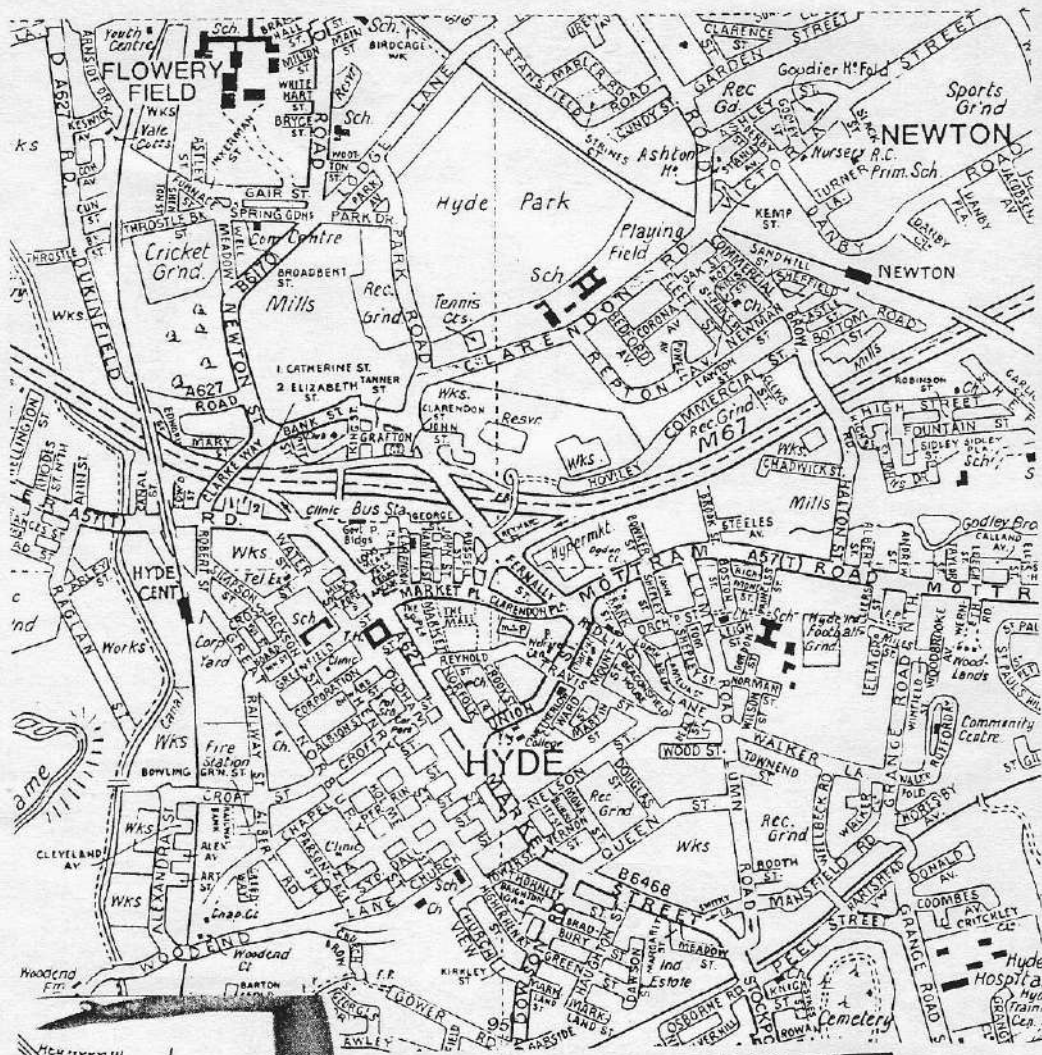
Packed house

A derby clash with the GM Vauxhall Conference high flyers would have generated tremendous interest locally, especially with a semi-final berth at stake.

"I'm sure we would have had a packed house here for that game," said Clements. "We would have been hoping for around six or seven thousand and even though Wycombe are a good side, I'd have fancied our chances of reaching the last four."

"I'm sure their manager, Jim Kellman, will be more than happy with a trip to Hyde — after all Wycombe do their training on a synthetic pitch at Bisham Abbey."

As a result, Clements expects Wycombe to beat Hyde in the next round, but quipped: "Provided they don't get the same referee."



ONE^{to}ONE

**THEY'LL DO ANYTHING
FOR IT**

**XXX
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